

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20

AGR-20 EB-11 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 HEW-08 RSR-01 /121 W
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O R 182045 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8041

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 5054

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PAN, CO, EAGR, ETRN

SUBJECT: REPORT OF COLOMBIAN- US JOINT TECHNICAL
MISSION ON FMD CONTROL

REF: STATE 099748

PASS USDA FOR ASST SECY YUETTER

1. ON JUNE 14 THE COLOMBIA- US JOINT TECHNICAL TEAM ON
FMD PREVENTION AND CONTROL AGREED ON REPORT RECOMMENDING
ACTIONS NECESSARY TO FORM THE BASIS FOR EFFECTIVE FMD
PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE DARIEN
HIGHWAY. THE MAJOR ELEMENTS ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:
(SPANISH AND ENGLISH COPIES OF REPORT ARE BEING
HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY U. S. TEAM MEMBERS).

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL PARK ALONG THE HIGHWAY
ROUTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONLY ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED
WITH DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY AND NORMAL PARK ACTIVITIES WILL
BE PERMITTED. NO OTHER CONNECTING ROADS WILL BE
CONSTRUCTED. ALL PEOPLE AND ANIMALS NOW LIVING WITHIN
THE PARK AREA EXCEPT INDIANS AND THEIR YARDED SWINE
WILL BE RELOCATED. (THE TEAM WAS SHOCKED TO FIND THAT
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WITHIN LAST NINE MONTHS NUMERIOUS SETTLERS HAVE MOVED INTO THE PROPOSED PARK ALONG THE HIGHWAY ROUTE AND HAVE PRACTICALLY REACHED THE BORDER WITH PANAMA. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PARK SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO STOP THIS INFLUX AND TO REMOVE THOSE ALREADY THERE.)

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROTECTED FOREST ZONE ALONG THE BORDER NORTH OF THE PARK. THIS ZONE WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR STUDY OF FLORA AND FAUNA. ALL OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WILL BE PROHIBITED AND NO LIVESTOCK OTHER THAN YARDED SWINE KEPT BY INDIANS WILL BE ALLOWED. (PROTECTED FOREST DESIGNATION IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS DESIGNATION OF THIS AREA AS A GENERAL INTEREST ZONE. THE BOUNDARIES AGREED BY THE TEAM- LARGELY EXCLUDE FARMS AND LIVESTOCK. EXCEPTION IS IN TIGRE RIVER VALLEY WHERE THERE ARE ABOUT SIX FARMS ABOVE RELEVANT 300 METERS ELEVATION LINE. THE TEAM AGREED EACH FARM WOULD BE STUDIED INDIVIDUALLY WITH OBJECTIVE OF RELOCATING THEM IF THEY CONSTITUTE A DANGER. EXTENSIVE STUDY OF THIS ENTIRE AREA REVEALED THAT NATURAL BOUNDARIES CONSTITUTE MORE FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE TO MOVEMENT INTO PANAMA THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED. EVEN IN ASTI RIVER VALLEY THE TERRAIN IS RUGGED AND THE LAST FARM LOCATED ABOUT 3 MILES FROM THE BORDER.)

C. ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOREST RESERVE SOUTH OF THE PARK.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFTOSA ERADICATION PROGRAM IN NORTHERN CHOCO (AREA 1) . THE PROGRAM INCLUDES A FORMULA WHICH, IF PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED WOULD LIMIT PRESENT CATTLE POPULATION TO A NATURAL GROWTH RATE OF ABOUT 2 PERCENT ANNUALLY.

E. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLEMENTARY AFTOSA ERADICATION PROGRAM IN AREA ADJACENT TO NORTHERN CHOCO (AREA 2).

F. ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT " MECHANISM" TO CONTROL PROGRAMS IN AREAS 1 AND 2.

G. PROPOSED STRENGTHENING AND ACCELERATION OF THE ANTI- AFTOSA CAMPAIGN IN AREA 3 ADJACENT TO AREA 2.

H. PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE U. S. AND COLOMBIA WITHIN 30 DAYS ON (1) AN AFTOSA CONTROL AND PREVENTION AGREEMENT AND (2) AN AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION, CONFIDENTIAL

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FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONTROL MECHANISM.

2. THE TEAM PRESENTED ITS REPORT TO AGMIN VALLEJO THE EVENING OF JUNE 14 WITH ITEM " F" AT THAT POINT CALLING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT " COMMISSION" TO " DIRECT AND EXECUTE" THE PROPOSED PROGRAM. U. S. MEMBERS

EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS JOINT COMMISSION SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF COLOMBIAN AND U. S. MEMBERS, AND COULD OPERATE SIMILARLY TO THE MEXICO- U. S. MODEL, WITH PROVISION FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN LATER AS APPROPRIATE. VALLEJO EXPLICITELY REJECTED THE IDEA OF COLOMBIA- U. S. COMMISSION OF THE MEXICO- U. S. TYPE ON GROUNDS IT WOULD CAUSE GOC POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN PERIOD BEFORE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND HE MENTIONED THAT FONMIN HAD INDICATED SAME REACTION TO PROPOSAL. MOREOVER, HE SAID, A JOINTLY ADMINISTERED PROGRAM WOULD ALSO CREATE A SOVEREIGNTY PROBLEM WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT A COMMISSION PERHAPS UNDER PAHO AUSPICES COULD BE CREATED OR THAT JOINT GROUP- SIMILAR TO PRESENT JOINT TECHNICAL TEAM- COULD START THE PROGRAM AND HOLD PERIODIC MEETINGS, WITH PROVISION FOR PRESENCE OF U. S. TECHNICIANS. HE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER THAT IT MUST B E A COLOMBIAN PROGRAM, COLOMBIAN ADMINISTERED. THE U. S. TEAM EMPHASIZED IN VIEW OF POTENTIALLY TREMENDOUS COST OF AFTOSA SPREADING NORTHWARD, SOME SORT OF FULL- TIME U. S. PARTICIPATION WAS ESSENTIAL AND THOUGHT THAT DURING DR. YEUTTERS MEETING WITH VALLEJO SUCH PARTICIPATION HAD APPEARED ACCEPTABLE. VALLEJO RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT MIND U. S. TECHNICIANS ASSISTING THE PROGRAM, AS

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